

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
CEA-01 L-03 PM-05 PA-01 /100 W
-----119124 220246Z /75

R 210433Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4631
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 06371

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEAN, E
SUBJECT: ASEAN DEVELOPMENTS AS SEEN BY TWO ASEAN
EMBASSIES

1. SUMMARY. EMBOFF HAD LUNCH APRIL 18 WITH SINGAPOREAN
EMBOFF ONGHKU KING AND MALAYSIAN EMBOFF CHOO ENG GUAN TO
DISCUSS ASEAN DEVELOPMENTS. THEIR COMMENTS ARE REPORTED
BELOW TELEGRAPHICALLY BECAUSE OF THEIR RELEVANCE TO CUR-
RENT DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. CHOO STATED THAT THE GOM CONTINUES TO BE SENSITIVE TO

INDOCHINESE (VIETNAMESE) REACTION TO ASEAN AND ITS RELA-
TIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES (I.E., THE UNITED STATES).
THIS WAS A REAL FACTOR FOR THE GOM EVEN DURING THE SEPTEM-
BER MEETING IN MANILA LAST YEAR AND REMAINS SIGNIFICANT
EVEN NOW. IN ADDITION, THE NONALIGNED CONFERENCE IN
BELGRADE ON THE SAME DATES PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE SECOND ASEAN MEETING IS A NEW BUT IMPORTANT FAC-
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TOR IN THE GOM'S EYES.

3. FURTHER, CHOO STATES THAT THE GOM ALSO QUESTIONED WHY
THE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES IS ON THE MINISTERIAL
LEVEL, WHEREAS ALL THE OTHER DIALOGUES WERE AT THE OFFI-
CIAL OR DIRECTORS LEVEL. CHOO CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT
THE GOM WILL LIKELY GO ALONG WITH THE OTHER ASEAN COUNT-

RIES ON A MINISTERIAL, BUT THOUGHT THAT AUGUST 3 TO 4
WOULD BE A BETTER DATE.

4. CHOO ADDED, AND ONG CONFIRMED, THAT THE GOP WAS PUSH-
ING FOR A MINISTERIAL BECAUSE ROMULO WAS INTERESTED IN
HEADING THE GOP DELEGATION. MRS. MANALO HAS TOLD THEM
THAT SHE WAS BEING PRESSED BY THE GENERAL TO GET THE OTHER
ASEAN COUNTRIES TO AGREE TO THE MINISTERIAL AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

5. ON THE REQUEST FOR WRITTEN USG REPLIES TO THE ELEVEN
ASEAN MEMORANDA, BOTH OFFICERS STATED THAT IT STEMMED
PRIMARILY FROM THE DESIRE OF THE GOP. THE GOM AND GOS
UNDERSTOOD WHY THE USG DID NOT FEEL WRITTEN REPLIES WERE
NECESSARY AFTER UNDERSECRETARY COOPER HAD GIVEN EXTENSIVE
ORAL REPLIES DURING THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. BRITISH
ORIENTED MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE DID NOT INSIST ON WRITTEN
REPLIES.

6. IN EMBOFF'S SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH ONG LU KING,
ONG STATED THAT THE GOS HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH THE ORIGI-
NAL DATES PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OR WITH THE
SUGGESTION FOR A MINISTERIAL MEETING. HE THOUGHT THE
MALAYSIANS WERE OVERSENSITIVE TO VIETNAMESE REACTION, BUT
SAID THAT THIS WAS STILL A FACTOR WHICH THE UNITED STATES
SHOULD KEEP IN MIND. ONG ALSO OPINED THAT ASEAN WILL NOW
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GET OFF ITS ULTRA POSITION ON THE COMMON FUND, NOW THAT
MUSA HITAM IS NO LONGER GOM MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUS-
TRIES. MUSA HITAM WAS THE ONLY ASEAN MINISTER WHO WAS A
FERVENT PROPONENT OF THE INTEGRATED COMMON FUND. STULL

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